

"My friends laugh because they say 'Anna is in charge of things?' They don't see me as Lt. Dixon, they just see me as Anna. But they are all super proud of me."

Over the holidays, she came home to spend some time with her family, including her parents Katy and Michael Jones of Corbin, Bill and Kay Dixon of Barbourville, and brothers John W. Dixon and Matthew Dixon.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012—PM 5

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975 as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; to the Committees on Appropriations; and the Budget:

To the Congress of the United States:

America is emerging from the worst recession in generations. In 2010, an economy that had been shrinking began to grow again. After nearly 2 years of job losses, America's businesses added more than one million jobs. Our capital and credit markets are functioning and strong. Manufacturing is coming back. And after teetering on the brink of liquidation just 2 years ago, America's auto industry is posting healthy gains and returning money to the taxpayers who helped it through a period of turmoil. The determination and resilience of the American people and the tough choices we made over the past 2 years helped to pull our economy back from the brink of a second Great Depression.

Two years after those dark days, the stock market is booming. Corporations are posting record profits. Momentum is building. Yet, in America, we have always had a broader measure of economic health. We believe in a country where everyone who is willing to work for it has the opportunity to get ahead; where the small businessperson with a dream or entrepreneur with a great new idea has their best chance to make them a reality; where any child can go as far as their talent and tenacity will take them. That is the genius of America. That spirit is what has built the greatest prosperity the world has ever known.

So even as recovery begins to take hold, we have more work to do to live up to our promise by repairing the damage this brutal recession has inflicted on our people, generating millions of new jobs, and seizing the economic opportunities of this competitive, new century.

These must be the priorities as we put together our Budget for the coming year. The fiscal realities we face require hard choices. A decade of deficits, compounded by the effects of the recession and the steps we had to take to break it, as well as the chronic failure to confront difficult decisions, has put us on an unsustainable course. That's why my Budget lays out a path for how we can pay down these debts and free the American economy from their burden.

But in an increasingly competitive world in which jobs and businesses are mobile, we also have a responsibility to invest in those things that are absolutely critical to preparing our people and our Nation for the economic competition of our time.

We do this by investing in and reforming education and job training so that all Americans have the skills necessary to compete in the global economy. We do this by encouraging American innovation and investing in research and development—especially in the job-creating industries of tomorrow such as clean energy. We do this by rebuilding America's infrastructure so that U.S. companies can ship their products and ideas from every corner in America to anywhere in the world. And finally, we do this by coming together as Americans, not Democrats or Republicans, to make the tough choices that get America's fiscal house in order, investing in what works, cutting what doesn't, and changing the way business is done in Washington.

Growing the economy and spurring job creation by America's businesses, large and small, is my top priority. That's why, over the course of the last year, I pushed for additional measures to jump-start our economic recovery: tax credits for businesses that hire unemployed workers; assistance to States to prevent the layoffs of teachers; and tax cuts and expanded access to credit for small businesses. At the end of the year, I signed into law a measure that provided tax cuts for 159 million workers saving the typical worker \$1,000 per year. And the same law extended important tax credits to help families make ends meet and afford to send their kids to college. This bipartisan tax cut plan also gave businesses two powerful incentives to invest and create jobs: 100 percent expensing on the purchase of equipment and an extension of the research and experimentation tax credit.

Moreover, my Administration has moved aggressively to open markets abroad and boost exports of American made goods and services, signing a new trade agreement with South Korea, the twelfth-largest economy in the world.

And last month, I laid out a balanced approach to regulation that is pragmatic, driven by data, and that will protect the health and well-being of the American people and help lay the groundwork for economic growth and job creation.

These steps will help the economy this year. But it is also essential that we take stock and look to the future—to what kind of America we want to see emerge from this crisis and take shape for the generations of Americans to come. This Budget lays out our roadmap not just for how we should invest in our economy next year, but how we should start preparing our Nation to grow, create good jobs, and compete in the world economy in the years ahead.

At its heart is a recognition that we live in a world fundamentally different than the one of previous generations. Revolutions in communication and technology have made businesses mobile and commerce global. Today, a company can set up shop, hire workers, and sell their products wherever there is an Internet connection. It is a transformation that has touched off a fierce competition among nations for the jobs and industries of the future.

The winners of this competition will be the countries that have the most skilled and educated workers; a serious commitment to research and technology; and access to quality infrastructure like roads and airports, high-speed rail, and high-speed Internet. These are the seeds of economic growth in the 21st century. Where they are planted, the most jobs and businesses will take root.

In the last century, America's economic leadership in the world went unchallenged. Now, it is up to us to make sure that we maintain that leadership in this century. At this moment, the most important contest we face as a Nation is not between Democrats and Republicans or liberals and conservatives. It's between America and our economic competitors around the world.

There is no doubt in my mind that we can win this competition. The United States is home to the world's best universities and research facilities, the most brilliant scientists, the brightest minds, and some of the hardest-working, most entrepreneurial people on Earth. But our leadership is not guaranteed unless we redouble our efforts in the race for the future.

In a generation, we've fallen from first place to ninth place in the proportion of our young people with college degrees. We lag behind other nations in the quality of our math and science education. The roads and bridges that connect the corners of our country and made our economy grow by leaps and bounds after World War II are aging and in need of repair. Our rail and air traffic systems are in need of modernization, and our mobile networks and high-speed Internet access have not kept pace with some of our rivals,